

In the Claims

Please amend claims 10, 15-17, 24, 29, 37, 40, and 41, and add new claims 46-52 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of an animal, the support device comprising:
- an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- a support layer; and
- a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
- a center transverse dimension having a center transverse axis therethrough;
- a first and second lateral transverse dimension on opposing sides of said center transverse dimension;
- said center transverse dimension greater than all other transverse dimensions of said support device;
- a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough which is orthogonal to said center transverse axis and bisects said center transverse dimension;
- a first and second lateral longitudinal dimension on opposing sides of said center longitudinal dimension,
- said center transverse dimension greater than said first and second lateral transverse dimension;
- said center longitudinal dimension greater than said first and second lateral longitudinal dimensions;
- said surface layer including an apex aligned with said center longitudinal axis;
- said surface layer on opposing sides of said center transverse axis being mirror images of one another.

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2. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said surface layer on opposing sides of said longitudinal axis are mirror images of one another.
3. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said center longitudinal dimension is less than said first transverse dimension.
4. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes at least one lift member.
5. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes at least two lift members.
6. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes three or more lift members.
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7. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said adhesive layer is intermittent.
8. (Previously Presented) A support device according to claim 5 wherein said device includes holes through said surface layer and said adhesive layer, said holes not through said lift members.
9. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said surface layer is bilateral symmetrical across both of said transverse and longitudinal axes.
10. (**Currently Amended**) A support device sized and configured for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, the support device comprising:  
a support layer configured to reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration; and  
a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:

a first axis which bisects said surface layer along a transverse dimension;  
a second axis which bisects said surface layer along a longitudinal dimension;

a middle region located proximate said second axis having a major longitudinal dimension, said major longitudinal dimension being located between reduced longitudinal dimensions;

said surface layer being bilaterally symmetrical across both of said first and second axes;

said transverse dimension of said surface layer along said first axis being 10-17 cm;

said major longitudinal dimension of said surface layer along said second axis being 5-18 cm;

said reduced longitudinal dimensions being less than said major longitudinal dimension.

11. (Original) A support device according to claim 10 wherein said surface layer on opposing sides of said longitudinal axis are mirror images of one another.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A support device according to claim 10 wherein said support layer includes at least one lift member.

14. (Original) A support device according to claim 10 wherein said support layer includes at least two lift members.

15. (**Currently Amended**) A support device according to claim 10 wherein further including an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues, said adhesive layer is being intermittent.

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16. (Currently Amended) A support device according to claim 14 wherein said device includes holes through said surface layer and layers and said adhesive layers, said holes not through said lift members.

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17. (Currently Amended) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:

a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage, the first side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations;

a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage, the second side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations; and

a bridge piece sized to extend between the first and second side pieces when the side pieces are applied to the nasal passages of the horse, the bridge piece comprising a strip, the strip including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the first side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the second side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations, wherein the strip provides different support tensions by selectively engaging the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.

18. (Previously Presented) The support device according to claim 17 wherein said bridge piece comprises at least two lift members.

19. (Previously Presented) The support device according to claim 17 wherein said first and second lateral regions of said bridge piece attach to said first and second side pieces using velcro.

20. (Cancelled)

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21. (Previously Presented) A support device according to claim 1 wherein the center transverse dimension is about 10-17 cm.

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22. (Previously Presented) The support device according to claim 21 wherein the center longitudinal dimension is about 6-14 cm.

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23. (Previously Presented) The support device according to claim 10 wherein the major longitudinal dimension is about 6-14 cm.

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24. (Currently Amended) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
  - (i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;
  - (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;
  - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
  - (iv) a first protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the first side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
  - (v) a second protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the second side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
- (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the transverse dimension of said surface layer, the support structures being configured to reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration.

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25. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 24, wherein the center longitudinal dimension is greater than any other longitudinal dimension of the surface layer.

26. (Cancelled)

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27. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 24, wherein the first protrusion comprises an apex.

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28. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 24, wherein the first protrusion is symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.

29. (Currently Amended) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
  - (i) a center longitudinal axis;
  - (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;
  - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
  - (iv) first and second centering structures disposed at the longitudinal axis for use in centering the center longitudinal axis of said nasal support device between the first and second nasal passages;
  - (v) said surface layer having a major longitudinal dimension at the first and second centering structures and reduced longitudinal dimensions positioned on opposite sides of the centering structures; and
- (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the traverse dimension of said surface layer, the support structures being configured to

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reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration.

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30. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein the major longitudinal dimension is greater than the reduced longitudinal dimensions of the surface layer.

31. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:

- (a) the first and second centering structures are symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.

32. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:

- (a) at least one of the first and second centering structures comprises an apex.

33. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein:

- (a) at least one of the first and second centering structures comprises a protrusion.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

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37. (**Currently Amended**) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
  - (i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;

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- (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;
  - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
  - (iv) an apex disposed at the longitudinal axis; and
- (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the traverse dimension of said surface layer, the support structures being configured to reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration.

38. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:  
a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage;  
a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage; and  
a bridge piece comprising at least two lift members, each of the lift members including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region of each lift member engaging the first side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region of each lift member engaging the second side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations.

39. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 38, wherein each of the lift members comprises a strip.

40. (**Currently Amended**) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:  
a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage;  
a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage; and  
a bridge piece sized to extend between the first and second side pieces when the side pieces are applied to the nasal passages of the horse, the bridge piece comprising a

strip, the strip including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first and second lateral regions of the bridge piece attaching to the first and second side pieces using velcro, the first lateral region engaging the first side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region engaging the second side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations.

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41. **(Currently Amended)** A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
  - (i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;
  - (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal dimension;
  - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
  - (iv) a first protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the first side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis;
    - (v) wherein said first transverse dimension that bisects said center longitudinal dimension is longer than said center longitudinal dimension; and
- (c) one or more support structures having lengths that extend along the transverse dimension of said surface layer, the support structures being configured to reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration.

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42. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the center longitudinal dimension is greater than any other longitudinal dimension of the surface layer.

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43. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein said surface layer further includes a second protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the second side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis.

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44. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the first protrusion comprises an apex.

45. (Previously Presented) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the first protrusion is symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.

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46. (New) The nasal support device of claim 17, wherein the bridge piece is flexible to permit selective engagement of the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.

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47. (New) The nasal support device of claim 24, further including a plurality of support structures.

48. (New) The nasal support device of claim 24, wherein the support structures are configured to lift the tissues overlying the first and second nasal passages.

49. (New) The nasal support device of claim 29, wherein the support structures are configured to lift the tissues overlying the first and second nasal passages.

50. (New) The nasal support device of claim 37, wherein the support structures are configured to lift the tissues overlying the first and second nasal passages.

51. (New) The nasal support device of claim 41, wherein the support structures are configured to lift the tissues overlying the first and second nasal passages.

52. (New) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:

a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage, the first side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations;

a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage, the second side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations; and

a bridge piece comprising a strip and at least two lift members, the strip including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the first side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the second side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations, wherein the strip provides different support tensions by selectively engaging the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.